



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 74 September 2026

Find us on:



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Hello Everyone

You all look like you have been enjoying the summer with lovely activities. That is great!

Our Wellness Day is 26th September. If you haven't enrolled on a course, please look for new availability. You don't have to be enrolled on a course to come along; just come and enjoy the day with your friends. There is plenty to do, see and listen to. It is your day for self-care, and to love yourself. Look at the what's on at this event in this bulletin or checkout our website page [here](#). We are really looking forward to seeing you on the day

We all look forward to seeing you very soon.

Helen

Dates for your Diary 2026/27

Date	Event	Venue
14th September 15th September 26th September	Treasurers' Workshop 10.30am President/Secretary Evening Love yourself Wellness Day 10am	Cornerstone Stafford Rugby Club County Showground
10th October 21st October	Bring out your inner Drama Queen 10am Awards Event 3pm and 6.30pm	Cornerstone Young Farmers Club
7th November 17th November	Seasonal Workshop 10am It's Christmas doors open 9.15am	Young Farmers Club County Showground
15th December	Carol Service 2pm	St Mary's Stafford
26th January 27	SFWI Annual Meeting 7pm	Online
20th April	Here Comes Spring doors open 9.15am	County Showground
2nd/3rd June	County Show	County Showground
17th June	Federation Quiz 7.15pm	County Showground

SUPPORTERS CLUB
Congratulations to the August Winners
who each win £25!

No 30 Ann Hughes, Tutbury WI
 No 93 Sue Dixon, Whitmore & Maer WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Committee News and Activities

Wellness Day Staffordshire Showground 10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday September 26th.

It's nearly here so please make sure you are ready to take part in this very new event. This is a first for Staffordshire Federation and we are so lucky to have received money from the Denman Trust.

There are just a few places on the Calligraphy workshop to fill so book your place now! We have a splendid chance to offer an additional free session to members with Debbie Todd, a founder of Protean Art, a creative community of artists, designers and makers at Woodings Yard, Stafford. Debbie is running an amazing 3D metal flower workshop, in the afternoon with 20 places

Remember this event is open to all women and is completely free of charge. Bring your female friends and family, who have not experienced the joy of being a WI member yet. Throughout the day free tea, coffee and biscuits can be enjoyed, whilst watching a wide variety of demonstrations of art and craft skills. Chat to the demonstrators, listen learn and have a go yourself.

There will be stalls selling produce, scarves, clothes, handbags, jewellery and skincare. Other stalls reflect our campaigns based on the Resolutions we debate each year. This year we are campaigning to help reduce homelessness, particularly for women and to make it possible for men and women to have access to free public toilets.

A series of short talks will be on offer, throughout the day, from a chiropractor and a homeopathy and nutritional therapist as well as talks on Pranic healing, an energy-based therapy, and from our partner organisation, Women's Aid, highlighting the work to help victims of domestic abuse.

Try Chair yoga or drop into a session of mindful art or have a go at resuscitation to help save a life in an emergency.

Come and embrace the inspiring ethos of the WI movement.

All women will be made welcome. The journey around the Members' Pavilion, at Staffordshire Showground will open up new pathways to understanding health, to mindful activities and above, all having fun.

The Showground food outlets will be open so you can stay all day.

Come and see what the WI has to offer on this special day but also for our future in the twenty first century.

Winter Quiz

Did you enjoy the Annual Quiz in June? Can't wait for next year's Quiz?

Your Quiz Master has devised a paper Winter Quiz which will be on sale at *It's Christmas!* It will also be available for collection from Federation Office from 1st October.

Cost £1 per sheet. Individual entries. No photocopies accepted.

Swifts, Bats & Hedgehogs

On 17th August, the Government published the latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - and in it, there is good news for the natural world! It states;

To contribute positively to the natural environment and support nature's recovery, development proposals should:

Minimise any adverse impacts on biodiversity and include features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs. Development proposals should incorporate integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) into their construction unless there are compelling technical reasons which prevent their use, or would make them ineffective.

If you have new housing development near you, why not pop into the Show House and ask if they are incorporating Swift bricks - and leaving a 13cm gap under fences to allow hedgehogs to roam between gardens. Remind them that it is required under 2026 NPPF, N2(1)(f) - always good to have the law on your side.

Ashes of London by Andrew Taylor—Book Review

The novel begins in September 1666 as the Great Fire sweeps through London. The central character is James Marwood who is a government clerk, and becomes involved in trying to solve a murder. Charles II became king in 1660; the repercussions of the execution of his father King Charles I in 1649 are still being felt, and no-one knows who they can trust anymore. The story includes members from the different layers of society, from those made homeless by the fire and beggars to the king himself, interweaving their lives; it also comments on the position of women in society at that time. The descriptions of everyday life, of the people and of London are very well done. This is the first in a series of novels with James Marwood as the lead character, and I'm hooked. If you enjoyed the Shardlake novels by C J Sansom, I'm sure you will enjoy these novels too.

Liz Goodwin, Trustee

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

Every February the Climate Coalition - and NFWI is a founder member - launch their Show the Love campaign.



Now is the time to think about how you, and others, can be part of their efforts to bring about change. Nominate someone in your WI to sign up to the Climate Coalition's mailing list <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love> and hear about opportunities to get involved in campaigns, see what resources are available and find out about training and events.

Let us make 2027 an inspiring year for Show the Love in Staffordshire. Together we can help our communities thrive and encourage decision-makers to stand with us.

Treasurers' Workshop

**14th September
10.30am
Cornerstone**

Spaces are still available.

Join us for advice and an update. Useful to those new to the role or as a refresher.

Please apply.

Events Team

Autumn is just around the corner and hot on the heels of that is our 'It's Christmas 2026', which will be held at the Staffordshire Showground on 17th November. The flyer and booking form are with your WI.

Adam Frost will be with us as our Keynote Speaker. He is a presenter on BBC TV's 'Gardener's World' a garden designer and horticulturist, known for his successes at the Chelsea Flower Show, where he has won seven gold medals. He is an RHS Ambassador. At the moment our gardens are dry and shrivelled. Adam will no doubt have ideas to help us face up to our changing climate.

Our morning speaker is Lindsay McKenna. Lindsay lives near Ross on Wye and her farm is home to almost 200 exotic animals including lemurs, lynx, mountain lions, coatis and servals. These exotic animals she has rescued from squalid conditions and she devotes her time to caring for them. This is a very topical subject as these animals are soon only to be kept under license

Finally Stephen Potter from Severn Trent Water Authority will be talking about clean water, a need to save water and clean rivers.

As usual, there will be lots of opportunity for shopping. We are busy booking new stalls as well as the ever popular stalls. Don't miss this special day as it is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, have fun, buy presents and enjoy great speakers.

This special day is for members only. Let's hope we recruit new members from the Wellness Day.



SEVERN
TRENT
WATER

Verity Conner and the Events Team

Hi Everyone

We hope you are all well.

We still have spaces on our Secretary and President event on 15th September; please join us for important updates. It is at a great venue at the Rugby Club in Stafford. It is also a great opportunity to meet fellow colleagues. If the President and Secretary are unable to come along, any other committee member is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you then.

Member Support Team



Broughton WI's Walnut Tree Still going strong!

The photo was taken in early spring and it always has lots of fruit on it.

It was planted alongside the car park at Broughton Parish Room

WI Magazine

The September issue of the WI magazine is about to drop on your doorstep.

The magazine is now issued quarterly. If you have not yet received your June (summer) issue, please contact l.monks@nfwi.org.uk for assistance.